

1029 as indicated by the Arkansas Department of Education. This will include any subsequent documentation or rules related to this policy.

BULLYING POLICY

- A. Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs his/her of their dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning and will not be tolerated by the Board. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off the school property at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; or going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.
- B. Bullying means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that creates a power imbalance, either real or perceived. Bullying can be verbal, social, and/or physical and creates a clear and present danger of:
1. Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
 2. Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
 3. A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
 4. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

Electronic act means without limitation a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including without limitation a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer, or pager that results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Electronic acts of bullying are prohibited whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose;

Harassment means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

Substantial disruption means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

1. Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
2. Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
3. Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
4. Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interferes with the learning environment.

C. Examples of “Bullying” may include but are not limited to a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

1. Sarcastic “compliments” about another student’s personal appearance.
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate.
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling.
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as “fronting” or “chesting” a person.
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student’s race, gender, ethnicity or personal characteristics.
6. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans.
7. Blocking access to school property or facilities.
8. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property.
9. Stealing or hiding books or belongings.
10. Threats of harm to students(s), possessions or others.
11. Electronic forms of bullying (Cyber-bullying) which include, but are not limited to email, text messaging, blogging, etc.
12. Sexual harassment, as governed by intensity level 4 behaviors is also a form of bullying,
13. Teasing or name-calling based on the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles (Example: Slut”) or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self- identifies as homosexual (Examples: “You are so gay.” “Fag” “Queer”).

D. Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal.

E. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the principal. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel

constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the principal. The principal shall be responsible for investigating the incident(s) to determine if disciplinary action is warranted. The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

- F. Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including referral back to the student's local school district. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook, which may have simultaneously occurred.
- G. Notice of what constitutes bullying, the school's prohibition against bullying, and the consequences to students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium and school bus. Parents, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice.

A complete policy is available upon request from the principal's office.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-514

Bullying Consequences: If the preponderance of evidence suggests bullying has occurred, the following consequences will be applied

1st Offense: Mandatory sensitivity training with the School LCSW (minimum 10 sessions)

2nd Offense: Mandatory referral team meeting